



Weekly Drought Brief Monday May 12, 2014

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Recent Precipitation: Minimal precipitation fell from Saturday, May 3 through Sunday, May 11:

- **Folsom:** 0.36" in the last week. 16.13" since July 1, **73%** of normal by this date.
- **Fresno:** 0.01" in the last week. 4.89" since July 1, **45%** of normal by this date.
- **Hetch Hetchy:** 0.34" in the last week. 19.91" since July 1, **56%** of normal by this date.
- **Los Angeles:** 0.00" in the last week. 5.83" since July 1, **40%** of normal by this date.
- **Modesto:** 0.01" in the last week. 7.00" since July 1, **56%** of normal by this date.
- **Oroville:** 0.40" in the last week. 19.56" since July 1, **65%** of normal this date.
- **Pollock Pines:** 0.00" in the last week. 27.40" since July 1, **53%** of normal by this date.
- **Redding:** 0.00" in the last week. 21.20" since July 1, **65%** of normal by this date.
- **Sacramento:** 0.01" in the last week. 10.26" since July 1, **50%** of normal by this date.
- **Shasta:** 0.46" in the last week. 34.62" since July 1, **56%** of normal by this date.
- **Willits:** 0.00" in the last week. 34.32" since July 1, **70%** of normal by this date.

** It is highly unlikely that precipitation totals will increase significantly over the coming months.**

Near-term Outlook for Precipitation: Warm and dry weather is expected across the state throughout this week.

Snow survey: The final manual [snowpack survey](#) of the season was conducted on Thursday (May 1) and showed California snowpack at 18% of normal. A slightly more [recent update](#) using automated devices shows snowpack at 14% of normal as of May 9.

Reservoir Levels (% capacity): [Reservoir Levels](#) as of May 10 remain low, including: Don Pedro 54%; Exchequer 29%; Folsom Lake 58%; Lake Oroville 52%; Millerton Lake 51%; New Melones 36%; Pine Flat 35%; San Luis 46%; Shasta 52%; and Trinity Lake 52%. An update of water levels at [other smaller reservoirs](#) is also available.

Vulnerable Water Systems: The California Department of Public Health is providing technical and funding assistance to help several communities facing near-term drinking water shortages and is monitoring water systems across the state to determine where else it can provide support. Updated information can be found at the [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#) website.

Fire Danger: State fire crews have battled 1,351 fires since January 1, which have burned 4,581 acres. This represents more than double the year to date average of 711 fires, burning an average of 4,376 acres. 107 new wildfires were reported over the past week. Strong winds across the state this week, including Santa Ana winds in Southern California, will increase fire danger significantly.

Additional firefighters, fire engines and firefighting aircraft staffed earlier than normal have allowed CALFIRE to contain many wildfires very quickly. Southern California fire stations have already reached peak staffing and northern California stations are set to reach peak staffing by May 30.

KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM LAST WEEK

- **US Department of Agriculture launches air quality initiative:** The Natural Resources Conservation Service, a division of USDA, has [announced that it will assist farmers](#) in turning woody debris from fallowed orchards and vineyards into woodchips that can reduce dust storms and erosion during the drought.
- **State's Capitol Park implements drought measures:** The California Department of General Services on Friday rolled-out a [new drought-tolerant irrigation and landscaping program](#) for the Capitol Park in Sacramento in order to preserve hundreds of historic trees while reducing water usage.
- **CALFIRE to consider new protections against wildfire:** On Tuesday (May 13) the State's Natural Resources Agency and Board of Forestry [will meet in Riverside](#) to discuss possible additional emergency regulations to protect forests and rangelands amidst increase wildfire risks.
- **Wildfire Awareness Week kicked off:** Last week, Governor Brown and US Interior Secretary Sally Jewell launched "Wildfire Awareness Week," which CALFIRE holds annually to highlight [steps to reduce wildfire risk](#). Governor Brown [kicked off the weeklong event](#) in Sacramento while [Secretary Jewell participated](#) in San Diego events.
- **Caltrans runs drought messaging on electronic signs:** The California Transportation Department utilized hundreds of its [electronic freeway signs](#) throughout the state to announce: "Serious Drought: Help Save Water." This message first appeared on the signs in early February and will run for three days at the start of each month during the remainder of the drought.
- **Statewide radio ads launched to expand water conservation:** The state's [Save Our Water](#) campaign this week is launching a [statewide radio campaign](#) to remind residents to reduce water use. These radio ads follow-on a series of radio advertising that ran earlier this spring and is coordinated with the state's current [outdoor billboard campaign](#) that was launched last week.
- **State leaders travel to San Joaquin Valley to assess drought conditions:** Leaders of the Governor's Drought Taskforce visited Visalia this morning (Monday) to meet with local government officials and the Tulare County Drought Taskforce. This is the fourth regional meeting of the state's Drought Taskforce leaders, which has allowed state officials to assess conditions in local communities. To date, meetings have been held in Willits, Merced and Santa Cruz.
- **State moves to make water appliances more efficient:** The California Energy Commission last week began a process to [adopt new efficiency standards for faucets, toilets and urinals](#) in response to the drought emergency. These improved efficiency standards hold potential to save \$1.12 billion in water and energy costs and reduce water use by 86.6 billion gallons a year throughout the state.
- **Third National Climate Assessment released:** The federal government last week released its [third National Climate Assessment](#), which assesses the impact of climate change on different regions of the US. The assessment explained the scientific evidence that

demonstrates droughts will likely become longer and more frequent in the coming years in this region of the country.

- **Local water agencies meet on drought:** Last week, over [400 local water agencies came together](#) for the semi-annual conference of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA). The conference discussed current drought challenges and explored both short and long term efforts to build local water reliability. State and federal agencies participated in these discussions.
- **Cost Data:** Cal OES continues to gather drought-related costs from state agencies and local governments, which is reported weekly to the Drought Taskforce.
- **Governor's Drought Task Force:** The Taskforce continues to meet daily to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought.

Local Government

- **Local Emergency Proclamations:** A total of 41 local Emergency Proclamations have been received to date from city, county, and tribal governments, as well as special districts:
 - **Counties:** Glenn, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Sutter, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yuba
 - **Cities:** Brooktrails Township-Mendocino County, City of Willits-Mendocino County, City of St. Helena-Napa County, City of Calistoga-Napa County, City of American Canyon-Napa County, City of Santa Barbara-Santa Barbara County, City of Montague-Siskiyou County
 - **Tribes:** Hoopa Valley Tribe in Humboldt County, Yurok Tribe in Del Norte County, Tule River Indian Tribe in Tulare County, Karuk Tribe in Siskiyou/Humboldt Counties, Sherwood Valley Pomo Indian Tribe, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.
 - **Special Districts:** Lake Don Pedro Community Services District, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), Twain Harte Community Services District, Carpinteria Valley Water District, Sonoma County Water Agency, Meiners Oaks Water District, Mariposa Public Utility District, Montecito Water District, Goleta Water District, Tuolumne Utilities District.
- **Water Agency Conservation Efforts:** The Association of California Water Agencies [has identified](#) several hundred local water agencies that have implemented water conservation actions. These water agencies [are responding to the drought](#) by implementing conservation programs, which include voluntary calls for reduced water usage and mandatory restrictions where water shortages are worst.
- **County Drought Taskforces:** A total of 23 counties have established drought task forces to coordinate local drought response. These counties include: Butte, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yolo.

DROUGHT RELATED WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

[Drought.CA.Gov](#): California's Drought Information Clearinghouse

Governor's [Proclamation of Drought Emergency](#)

State's Water Conservation Campaign, [Save our Water](#)

Local Government [Clearinghouse and Toolkit](#)

California Department of Food and Agriculture, [Drought information](#)

California Department of Water Resources [Current Water Conditions](#)

California Data Exchange Center, [Snow Pack/Water Levels](#)

California State Water Resources Control Board, Water Rights, [Drought Info and Actions](#)

California Natural Resources Agency, [Drought Info and Actions](#)

California Department of Public Health, Drinking Water [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#)

California State Water Project, [Information](#)

USDA Drought Designations by County [CA County Designations](#)

USDA Disaster and Drought Assistance Information [USDA Programs](#)

Small Business Administration Disaster Support: www.sba.gov/disaster